

From Her Family Member, Carol Brown
Date: 04/10/20

Susan Ellen Stanley was born in Lanai City, Territory of Hawaii on April 18, 1938 the only child of Henry Brian Stanley and Marion Ellen Hoerner Stanley. Susan grew up and obtained her early education in Wahiawa, Oahu, a small town surrounded by pineapple fields. Her introduction to the mainland states in 1947 was a three-month stay in Omaha, Nebraska with her maternal grandparents while her parents traveled.

Susan was a boarding student at Punahou School in Honolulu during her high school years. She attended Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley Massachusetts, then did graduate study at Cornell and the University of Hawaii where she received a M.A. in psychology. Susan also received a M.B.A. in 1980 from San Jose State University. Coming to California in 1964, she worked as a psychologist for Santa Clara County, first for the Juvenile Probation Department, later for the Mental Health Division of the Health Department. In 1977 she, with a partner, established Stairways in Los Gatos, a residential treatment home for adolescent girls.

Always a dog lover and after a long interest in the breed, Susan bought her first Pembroke Welch Corgi in 1978. She began training, showing, and breeding them. Tracking, teaching the dogs to follow a specific human's scent became her interest. When one of her socially minded corgis retired from the show ring, Susan took her to Santa Clara County Humane Society where they trained as therapy dog partners. As Cupertino Senior Day Services (now Live Oak at St. Jude's the Apostle Episcopal Church) had applied for a therapy dog visitor and it was close to Susan's Saratoga home they went there. Eventually, Susan spent six years on the Board of Directors at CSDS. This led to Susan making friend with St. Jude's parishioners and joining St. Jude's.

At St. Jude's Susan served on the Library Committee, as a Stephen Minister and Stephen Leader, and a Good Samaritan. She also served on the Social Justice/Outreach Committee.

For the past fifteen years Susan lived at the Forum at Rancho San Antonio, a Cupertino, California retirement community. There she served as a volunteer, coordinator for the health center and on several other committees.